

Appl. No. 09/976,312
Amdt. Dated July 23, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

sub
D1 } Claim 1 (currently amended): Elastically stretchable disposable pants having a central longitudinal axis and comprising:

a pair of elastically stretchable sheet members;

a front waist region having side edges;

a rear waist region opposed to said front waist region;

a waist-opening and a pair of leg-openings defined by bonding said front and rear waist regions at edge portions thereof to each other, and

substantially inelastic guide zones provided between said central longitudinal axis and each of said side edges of said front and rear waist regions, and extending longitudinally of said pants between a vicinity of a peripheral edge portion of said waist-opening and a vicinity of each of each of said leg-openings, leg-openings respectively, said substantially inelastic guide zones having upper terminal ends which terminate near the waist-opening and lower terminal ends that are spaced apart from the leg-openings, said substantially inelastic guide zones being configured to prevent portions

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of the disposable diaper in a vicinity of the substantially inelastic guide zones from stretching ~~in~~
along a direction along parallel to the central longitudinal axis.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The pants according to Claim 1, wherein said pair of elastically stretchable sheet members comprise layers of elastically stretchable fibrous nonwoven fabric and said substantially inelastic guide zones comprise portions of said nonwoven fabric which are molten and solidified so as to have substantially no elastic stretchability.

C1
Claim 3 (previously amended): The pants according to Claim 1, wherein said pair of elastically stretchable sheet members comprise layers of elastically stretchable fibrous nonwoven fabric and said substantially inelastic guide zones comprise inelastic strips of sheet material that are bonded to said nonwoven fabric so that said substantially inelastic guide zones have substantially no elastic stretchability.

Claim 4 (previously amended) The pants according to Claim 1, wherein a pad member comprising a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet is attached to an inner surface of said pants and extends from said front waist region to said rear waist region.

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Claim 5 (previously amended): The pants according to Claim 1, wherein said pants comprise a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet and extending from said front waist region to said rear waist region, and of said liquid-impervious backsheet and said liquid-pervious topsheet at least said liquid-impervious backsheet is formed from said pair of elastically stretchable sheet members.

C1
Claim 6 (previously amended): The pants according to Claim 1, wherein each of said substantially inelastic guide zones is located aside toward said side edges of said front and rear waist regions.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The pants according to Claim 4, wherein each of said substantially inelastic guide zones is located in a vicinity of said pad member.

C2
Claim 8 (newly added): The pants according to Claim 1, wherein the upper terminal ends of the inelastic zones are spaced apart from the waist-opening.